

NILAN DAMS

Fact Sheet

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- ◆ Off-stream reservoir located 7 miles west of Augusta in Lewis & Clark County
- ◆ Owned by DNRC & managed by SWPB
- ◆ Operated by Nilan WUA since 1952
- ◆ The reservoir is a popular recreation site, primarily for fishing. The DFWP manages a Fishing Access Site under a DNRC lease on the south shore of the reservoir.
- ◆ Project consists of two dams:

North Dam:

- ◆ 54 feet high
- ◆ 530 feet long
- ◆ No spillway

East Dam

- 51 feet high
- 1,010 feet long
- Concrete control section spillway

Each dam has a gated, reinforced concrete outlet conduit, and a 4-foot diameter cast-in-place reinforced concrete tunnel.

Control towers at each dam are located on the dam crest, consisting of a double chambered wet tower with a 48-inch slide operating gate and 48-inch square emergency slide gate. Controls for the gates are located at the top of the towers.

- ◆ Original construction completed in 1951
- ◆ Normal storage is 10,092 acre-feet, covering 525 surface acres.
- ◆ 27 water users have 53 contracts
 - ◆ And irrigate approximately 10,000 acres with two canals (12.7 mile-long North Canal; 5.8 mile-long East Canal).
- ◆ The dam is a “high hazard” structure, which means that its failure could cause loss of life. The town of Augusta (population 284) is located 7 miles east and downstream of Nilan Reservoir.
- ◆ Numerous houses, roads, bridges, and utilities are located in the flood plain below the dam

PROJECT STATUS

- ◆ Several major repairs were completed on the East Dam in 1999 to repair sinkholes that developed along the upstream toe. A new outlet terminal structure and drain system was installed at the north dam in the spring of 2008.
- ◆ The project meets or exceeds all current dam safety standards.

